

REMARKS

The present Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") has been filed to gain entry of the non-entered amendment after final, which was denied entry by the Examiner in an Advisory Action mailed February 14, 2006.

In accordance with this amendment, independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3 have been amended to recite that the supporting members have flat (rather than linear) distal end portions, and the specification has been correspondingly amended.

Prior to receipt of the Advisory Action, the undersigned attorney conferred by telephone with the Examiner to learn the status of the amendment after final. The Examiner advised that the amendment after final would not be entered because it raises new issues that would require further consideration or search, and the Examiner was kind enough to briefly discuss the merits of the amended claims in the non-entered amendment. The Examiner indicated that the amendment to claim 1 to recite that the supporting members have linear distal end portions would not necessarily distinguish from Kamlukin since in the reference, the supporting members 23 have a linear extent when viewed in the transverse direction, i.e., in a direction perpendicular to the plane of Fig. 2.

While applicant does not concur with this interpretation of Kamlukin, applicant has nonetheless amended independent claim 1 to avoid such an incidental reading of the reference on the claim. As amended herein, the word "linear" has been changed to --flat-- so that the claim recites that the supporting members have flat distal end portions. As is clearly evident from Figs. 1-3 of Kamlukin, the supporting members 23 have curved --not flat-- distal end portions and thus the reference does not anticipate or suggest the snow removal machine recited in independent claim 1. Dependent claim 3 has been similarly amended to conform to amended base claim 1.

In addition to the foregoing, independent claim 1 includes the limitation that the throwing-up blades undergo bending only about the proximal end portions thereof. By contrast, in Kamlukin the throwing-up blades 16 undergo bending throughout the length of the blade bodies -- not only about the proximal end portions thereof.

For the reasons urged in the amendment after final and this voluntary amendment, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

March 8, 2006

Date